State Government of Orissa has prepared plan titled, " Delta Development Plan" with an estimated cost of Rs. 198.99 crore for drainage development of Mahanadi Delta area which includes construction of drains, tidal flood regulation facilities and embanking of drains. State Government is taking up schemes out of this Master Plan according to their priority. The State Government has taken up a project during 1997-98 for Doab No. 1 (Mahanadi Kathajoin Doab) amounting to Rs. 9.25 crore to save 31890 ha. area from water logging.

Land covered by any catchment areas

† 1 828. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a certain part of land in the country which does not fall under any catchment area;

(b) if so, total area of such land and the percentage of this land out of the total land;

(c) whether Govemment have made assessment of the requirement of water for such land; and

(d) if so, the extent of water required for such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The geographical area of the country has been divided into 20 river basins. Area North of Ladakh, not draining into Indus, and areas of Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands do not fall in any of these basins. These areas constitute 36,758 square kilometer which is 1.12% of the total geographical area of the country. Requirement of water is closely related to population, demand for food, production of industrial items, production of energy and preserving ecology. The area of North Ladakh remains snow-bound round the year and is largely uninhabited having negligible water requirement. The requirement of water for Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands is of the order of 950 million cubic meter which is met by harnessing the abundant rainfall in these areas.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.